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TERRITORIAL LEGISLATION IN WISCONSIN.

ANNUAL ADDRESS

BEFORE THE

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OF WISCONSIN,

Thursday Evening, February 4th, 1870,

BY HON. MOSES M. STRONG.

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE LEGISLATURE.

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JUDGE ORTON'S INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

Hon. HARLOW S. ORTON, one of the Vice-Presidents of the Society, arose and said:

You will please indulge me, for a few moments, before listening to the annual address, in making a brief statement in relation to the origin, progress and present condition of our State Historical Society.

Twenty-one years ago this Society was first organized, and for the first five years, did little else than to keep up the formality of an annual meeting; and, at the time of its re-organization, in January, 1854, it had, all told, but fifty volumes, bound and unbound, in its collection. Since that time, it has received the fostering care of the State, and the constant and unremitting labors of Mr. DRAPER, its Corresponding Secretary, and has made for itself, and for the State, to which it belongs, and whose organ it is, a name and reputation which elicited from the late distinguished American historiau JARED SPARKS, this high eulogium: "During the time since the State Historical Sociery of Wisconsin was founded, it seems to have done more than any similar Society in the country, and has set an example of enterprise and activity which any Society in the world may be proud to follow." From the fifty volumes, sixteen years ago, the library has rapidly expanded to over 42,000 volumes and documents, embracing in the several departments of its collection, some of the rarest and most valuable works in our own and other languages, some of which it would be difficult, if not impossible, to duplicate anywhere. But the mere gathering of a noble library, which is, of itself, a living evidence and perpetual record of the cultivated taste

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and unflagging devotion of our people in fostering such a collection, is not the only object of great public utility accomplished by this Society. It has gathered, with untiring energy, the early incidents connected with the foundation and growth of Wisconsin—many of its most interesting historical details of a century and a quarter ago, and copies of manuscript documents of even an earlier date. It has gathered together one of the largest and most valuable collections of bound newspaper files to be found anywhere in the country, numbering over fifteen hundred volumes, including papers published by FRANKLIN himself, giving the youthful beginnings of the world-renowned career of the immortal WASHINGTON, and of the entire period of the Revolutionary war, and covering every year thence down to the present time. The mere preservation of our own Wisconsin files of newspapers is vastly important; they contain thousands of published legal notices most necessary to be preserved, and frequently indispensable in cases of litigation before our courts.

The library of this Society, so conveniently situated in the Capitol, furnishes to our Supreme Court, and its attendant bar, to our State officers and members of the Legislature, sources of information found scarcely anywhere else, of inestimable value and interest. To this library resort many college professors of our own State, and even adjoining States, to note down facts they need in elucidating various topics and subjects of literary and scientific inquiry; and here is the pleasant and convenient resort of students of all the educational institutions of the State, for most profitable reading and reference.

It is a matter of congratulation that this Society has accomplished so much for our State and people, with pecuniary means so limited. It has been fortunate, perhaps, above any other Society in this country, in securing a wide and valuable system of exchanges and correspondence, with nearly all the countries in Europe, and all the States and kindred Societies of this country, and donations to it have been numerous and very important.

This vast and priceless historical treasure has been amassed.

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It is the most valuable property belonging to the State, and that value, increasing from year to year, as time rolls on, obliterating and destroying the scattered materials of our history. It now needs only care and preservation, a complete arrangement, and a full and perfect catalogue, so as to make the collection available and useful to its greatest extent. To this end, the Society asks only a small and necessary amount, which, judiciously applied, will greatly enhance the usefulness of the library, and enable it to meet the demands of the public and the State.

Here is a property more valuable than gold, held in perpetuity for the use of future generations, and for which they will look back and bless those who founded and cherished it.

The most pleasing and interesting incident of human life, and the highest and purest act of disinterested benevolence and philanthropy, is the sight of an old man, leaning on the top of his staff, and bending over the grave, gently pushed forward to his last resting place by the successive generations of his children and his children's children, who plants a little tree in the garden of his last earthly habitation, whose fruit and shelter he himself never expects to enjoy. He trains its tender stock and nurses its roots with paternal care—and all for the use and enjoyment of others, after he is gone. With like sentiments and feelings, should we plant and cherish our State institutions, which will stand as a monument to our memory, and of increasing value to posterity.

I have now the pleasure of introducing to you Hon. Moses M. Strong, of Mineral Point, who will address you on the subject of "Territorial Legislation in Wisconsin."

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MR. STRONG'S ADDRESS.

TERRITORIAL LEGISLATION.

A traveler borne along with the current of a rapidly flowing river, cannot fully realize the progress which he is making, while it is apparent to the observer on the shore. And it will not be expected that those earlier pioneers, who had adopted Wisconsin as their home while it was yet a part of Michigan Territory, who became citizens of Wisconsin Territory by virtue of its organic act of Congress, who were witnesses of its first struggles as a political community, and have participated in its progress during its twelve years of Territorial pupilage and its twenty-one years fruition as a full fledged State of the Union, can realize the progress which has been continually made during the thirty-three years which have so rapidly sped, in which the State of which we are so proud to be called citizens, has grown from eleven thousand to a million of people, and from a wilderness of waste to a highly cultivated agricultural condition. This unexampled progress is, however, manifest to others, who, although not participating in the toils, hardships, privations and sometimes sufferings incident to the first settlement of a new country twenty-five or thirty years ago, have witnessed with wonder and admiration, the efforts and the results which are the glory of those who made and achieved them, and the pride of those who enjoy them. It is true, also, the scenes and events successively occurring during the Territorial period of our Government, may now possess some historic interest to the more modern immigrants to our State, which were so common-place at the time of their occurrence as to make but little impression upon those immediately

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connected with them, and to revive the recollection of which, it is now necessary to refer to the archives of your Society.

Leaving to the antiquarian the subject of Wisconsin history prior to the formation of the government of the Territory, and to those who may choose to speak or write of it, the more modern history of the State of Wisconsin, I shall, on this occasion, limit myself to a simple collation of some of the events in the history of the legislation of Wisconsin during its twelve years of Territorial existence.

The act of Congress "establishing the Territorial Government of Wisconsin" was approved April 20, 1836. It provided that all the country included within certain prescribed boundaries, incluing all the territory now embraced in the States ot Wisconsin, Iowa and Minnesota, and a part of the Territory of Dacotah, should form, and after the 3d day of July, 1836, constitute a separate Territory for the purposes of temporary government by the name of Wisconsin.

The executive power over the Territory was vested in a Governor, who was also Superintendent of Indian Affairs, and whose approval of all laws was necessary before they should take effect.

The act provided for a Secretary, whose duty it was to record and preserve the laws and proceedings of the Legislative Assembly, and the acts and proceedings of the Governor, and who was to execute and perform the powers and duties of Governor in certain contingencies mentioned in the act.

The legislative power was vested in the Governor and a Legislative Assembly. The Legislative Assembly consisted of a council of thirteen members, whose term of service was four years, and a House of Representatives consisting of twenty-six members, whose term of service was two years.

It was provided by the organic act that the Governor should appoint the time and place of the first meeting of the Legislative Assembly; that he should cause a census of the inhabitants to be made previous to the first election, and should make an apportionment among the several counties for the election of members of the Council and House of Representatives.

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The act further provided "that every free white male citizen of the United States above the age of twenty-one years, who shall have been an inhabitant of the Territory at the time of its organization, should be entitled to vote at the first election, and should be eligible to any office within the said Territory."

The judicial power of the Territory was vested in a Supreme Court, District Courts, Probate Courts, and Justices of the Peace. The Supreme Court consisted of a Chief Justice and two Associate Judges. The Territory was to be divided by the Legislative Assembly into three judicial districts, in each one of which a District Court was to be held by one of the Judges of the Supreme Court. The clerks of all the courts were appointed by the Judges thereof. The act also provided for the appointment of an Attorney and Marshal. The Governor, Secretary, Chief Justice, Associate Judges, Attorney and Marshal, it was provided, should be appointed by the President of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. All other officers were appointed by the Governor and Council, or elected by the people.

Such is a brief synopsis of the principal provisions of the act organizing the government of the Territory.

The first appointments made by the President and Senate of the several officers were:

Governor—HENRY DODGE.
Secretary—JOHN S. HORNER.
Chief Justice—CHARLES DUNN.
Associate Judges—DAVID IRWIN, WM. C. FRAZER.
Attorney—W. W. CHAPMAN.
Marshal—FRANCIS GEHON.

The machinery of a complete temporary government, and the instruments for its proper working, were thus provided, and it only remained to set the machine in motion.

On the fourth of July, the Governor, Secretary and Judges took the prescribed oath of office* at Mineral Point, which event

*The copy of the Bible used in administering the oath of office on this interesting occasion, has been presented to our society by Hon. JOHN S. HORNER, and is preserved in our collections. L. C. D.

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contributed a novel and interesting element to a grand celebration of the national jubilee, which was very generally participated in by the inhabitants of the lead mine region, of which that hamlet was the then recognized metropolis.

The first important thing to be done to complete the formation of the embryo government, was the organization of the Legislative Assembly. Preliminary to this a census was to be taken by the sheriffs, and an apportionment of members of the two branches made by the Governor among the several counties.

That portion of the Territory which comprises the present State consisted of four counties—Brown, Crawford, Iowa and Milwaukee. Brown county embraced all the territory east of the Wisconsin river and range eight, and south as far as and including town twelve. Milwaukee embraced the territory between town twelve and the State of Illinois, extending west to and including range nine. Iowa county was bounded north by the Wisconsin river, east by the line between ranges eight and nine, south by Illinois, and west by the Mississippi river; and Crawford county embraced all the remainder of the territory east of the Mississippi.

The census exhibited the following figures:

Brown county	2,706
Crawford	850
Iowa	5,234
Milwaukee	2,893
Total	11,683

The apportionment made by the Governor gave to the different counties representation as follows:

Brown	2	members of Council	3	of the House of Representatives.	
Crawford	0	do	2	do	do
Milwaukee	2	do	3	do	do
Iowa	3	do	6	do	do
Dubuque	3	do	5	do	do
Des Moines	3	do	7	do	do
Total	13	do	26	do	do

The time fixed by the Governor for the election was the 10th of October. The election excited a very considerable in-

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terest, growing, chiefly out of local considerations. The permanent location of the "seat of government," the division of counties and the location of county seats, were the questions that chiefly influenced the elections, while the views of candidates, in relation to national politics, had little or no influence upon the results.

Mr. JOHN ATCHISON, an enterprising citizen of Galena, during the summer and autumn of 1836, having laid out a town plat between the two Platte Mounds, to which he gave the name of Belmont, erected there several buildings, designed for the accommodation of the Legislative Assembly; and the Governor, by his proclamation, appointed that place, and the 25th of October as the time, for the meeting of the first session of the Legislative Assembly.

A quorum of each House was in attendance at the time fixed for the meeting, and the two Houses were speedily organized by the election of HENRY S. BAIRD, of Green Bay, President of the Council, and PETER HILL ENGLE, of Dubuque, Speaker of the House of Representatives. Each of the three branches of the infant government was now in working order, except that it remained for the Legislative Assembly to divide the Territory into judicial districts, and make an assignment of the judges. This was speedily done. Crawford and Iowa constituted the first district, to which the Chief Justice was assigned; Dubuque and Des Moines the second, to which Judge IRWIN was assigned, and Judge FRAZER was assigned to the third, consisting of Milwaukee and Brown counties.

The first act passed by this first Legislative Assembly was one which privileged the members from arrest, and conferred upon themselves authority to punish for contempt. The next one, with the exception of that already referred to, establishing judicial districts, was "to borrow money to defray the expenses of the first session of the Legislative Assembly."

Three banks were incorporated—the Miners' Bank, of Dubuque, the Bank of Mineral Point, and the Bank of Milwaukee, all of which were organized and went into operation, and all failed and became utterly bankrupt, and one of them, the

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Bank of Mineral Point, with a loss to the community of over $200,000.

All of the territory south and east of the Wisconsin and Fox rivers was subdivided into counties, as they now exist, except that Ozaukee, Waukesha, Kenosha and La Fayette have been formed out of Washington, Milwaukee, Racine and Iowa. In most of the counties the county seats were located at the same session. These questions, however, did not create much discussion or excitement in the Legislative Assembly, as the questions, where any existed, had been mainly decided at the elections, and the members had only to give effect to the expressed will of those citizens by whom they had been elected.

The great and paramount question of the session was the location of the Seat of Government. To this all others were subordinate and made subservient. The wild spirit of speculation, which in the earlier part of the year 1836, had, like a tornado, swept over the whole country, and which, having invaded and unsettled the prices of every species of personal property, seized upon the unsold public domain, which was transferred by millions of acres from the control of the Government and the occupation of the settler, to the doimnion of the speculator; although on the wane in the last months of that year, was still omnipotent, and exerted a marked influence upon many of the members of the Belmont Legislature.

Numerous speculators were in attendance with beautiful maps of prospective cities, whose future greatness was portrayed with all the fervor and eloquence which the excited imagination of their proprietors could display. Madison, Belmont, Fond du Lac and Cassville, were the points which were most prominently urged upon the consideration of the members. Hon. JAMES DUANE DOTY, afterwards a Delegate in Congress, and Governor of the Territory, and more recently Governor of Utah, where he died, had resided for many years at Green Bay as additional Judge of Michigan Territory. His frequent journeys in discharge of his judicial duties, in the different parts of the Territory, had rendered him familiar with

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its geography and topography, and had given him superior advantages for judging of the eligibility of different points, as sites for the capitol of the Territory and future State. Judge DOTY fixed upon the isthmus between the third and fourth of the Four Lakes, and in connection with STEVENS T. MASON, the Governor of Michigan Territory, purchased from the Government about one thousand acres in sections 13, 14, 23 and 24, upon the common corner of which the Capitol now stands. Upon this tract of land a town plat was laid out, called Madison, and under the auspices of its founder became a formidable competitor for the honors and advantages of being selected as the seat of Government. Madison town lots in large numbers were freely distributed among members, their friends, and others who were supposed to possess influence with them.

Nearly four weeks were spent in skirmishing outside the Legislative Halls, when, on the 21st of November, the battle was formably opened in the Council, and the bill considered in committee of the whole until the 23d when it was reported back in the form in which it became a law, fixing upon Madison as the Seat of Government, and providing that the sessions of the Legislative Assembly, should be held at Burlington, in Des Moines county, until March 4, 1839, unless the public buildings at Madison should be sooner completed.

When the bill was reported back by the committee of the whole, and was under consideration in the Council, where the ayes and noes could be called, a spirited attack was made upon it, and motions to strike out Madison and insert some other place were successively made in favor of Fond du Lac, Dubuque, Portage, Helena, Milwaukee, Racine, Belmont, Mineral-Point, Platteville, Green Bay, Cassville, Belleview, Koshkonong, Wisconsinapolis, Peru and Wisconsin City; but all with one uniform result—ayes 6, noes 7; and the bill was by the same vote ordered engrossed, and the next day passed the Council. In the House of Representatives the opposition was not so formidable, and on the 28th, the bill was ordered to a third reading by a vote of 16 to 10 and passed the same day, 15 to 11—thus ending one of the most exciting struggles ever

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witnessed in the Territory of Wisconsin. This question disposed of, but little remained which was thought expedient to act upon at that session.

A proposition was made for a commission to codify the laws, but the opinion was prevalent that the Territory would soon be divided, so that this and other propositions of a kindred character, met with but little favor.

The first Legislative Assembly having enacted that the annual sessions should thereafter be held on the first Monday of November, adjourned *sine die*, on the 9th day of December, having been in session 46 days, and passed 42 laws, about one-half of which were of a private nature.

Of the twenty-one members from the counties east of the Mississippi, it is believed that only six now survive: Messrs. H. S. BAIRD, GILBERT KNAPP, ALANSON SWEET and JOHN B. TERRY, of the Council, and A. G. ELLIS and THOMAS SHANLEY, of the House of Representatives.

The second session of the Legislative Assembly convened at Burlington, on Monday, the 6th day of November, 1837, and continued in session until the 20th of January, 1838, when it adjourned to meet again on the second Monday of June. The two houses were composed of the same members as at the previous session, except that JOSEPH DICKINSON was elected from Brown county in place of HENRY S. BAIRD, resigned; CHARLES C. SHOLES from same county in place of ALBERT G. ELLIS, resigned, and IRA BRUNSON and JEAN BRUNET, from Crawford county, in place of JAMES B. DALLAM and JAMES H. LOCKWOOD, resigned. This session of the Legislative Assembly was not marked by any events of peculiar interest. The Governor, in his message, recommended, as he had at the previous session, a codification of the laws, but nothing was done in that direction, except to provide, by resolution, for the printing, as an appendix to the pamphlet laws of the session, of 125 acts specified by their titles, selected from those then in force. The provisions of this resolution, however, were never complied with.

The whole number of acts passed at this session was 106.

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Of these, eighteen related to the laying out and organization of counties, locating county seats, and to town, village and city organization; ten to the establishment of eighteen different seminaries and universities; nine to the location of roads; and thirty-six to the general conduct of the public affairs of the Territory. There was also passed thirty-two private acts, of which one was to incorporate a Bank at Prairie du Chien, which was disapproved by Congress and never went into effect; and six to grant divorces, all of which took effect immediately after, and some, perhaps, before their passage.

Of the public acts, the two most important were the act providing for taking another census, and the act abolishing imprisonment for debt, which relic of barbarism had continued in force, by operation of the laws of Michigan, upon the organization of the Territory. Among the eighteen universities and seminaries established was the "University of the Territory of Wisconsin" at Madison, to which Congress was by joint resolution urged to make an appropriation of $20,000 in money, and two townships of land. The money was not appropriated. But on the 12th of June, 1838, Congress made an appropriation of the amount of land asked for, which was the fundamental endowment of that noble University, whose spacious buildings now adorn the capital of our State, and whose facilities and capacity for educating its youth reflect much credit upon those who have manifested so great an interest, and such untiring perseverance in promoting its welfare.

It was at this session that an act was passed "to incorporate the Milwaukee and Rock River Canal Company," which contained, among other things, an authority to the Company to apply to Congress for an appropriation in money or lands to aid in the construction of its works. In pursuance of this authority application was made, and an appropriation obtained, in June, 1838, of the odd-numbered sections on a belt of territory five miles in width on each side of the line of the proposed canal. This grant of land, if it had been judiciously managed, would have produced a fund adequate for the construction of

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a canal connecting Rock River with Lake Michigan, which would have been followed, no doubt, by slack-water navigation on Rock River, providing a cheap means of transit to market of the bulky agricultural products of the extensive and fertile valley of Rock River, and of other parts of the State, and of Illinois. But instead of the blessing it might have been, it proved a curse and a blight upon the early prosperity of the Territory, owing mainly to the antagonisms which grew up between the officers of the Canal Company and the Territorial officers, entrusted with the disposition of the lands granted by Congress and of their proceeds, and to the conflicts between the beneficiaries of the land grant, and some of the leading politicians of the times.

The session at Burlington, in June, 1838, was a short one, lasting only two weeks, having been held mainly for the purpose of making a new apportionment of members of the House of Representatives, based upon the census taken in May. Thirty-one acts were passed, of which six related to counties, five to roads, seven to the conduct of public affairs, and the remaining thirteen to private matters, of which four were to grant divorces. Among the public acts was one postponing the general election from the first Monday of August, to the second Monday of September; and another making a new apportionment of the members of the House of Representatives to be then elected. Of the twenty-six members, twelve were apportioned among the counties east of the Mississippi river, and fourteen among those west. This apportionment was, however, to be contingent upon the division of the Territory; upon which contingency, it was made the duty of the Governor to make an apportionment. This act was approved on the 23d of June; and the act to divide the Territory and establish the Territorial government of Iowa, was approved on the 12th of June, twelve days previous; but in those days of slow mails, and while the electric telegraph was an experiment, the news of its passage did not reach Burlington until after the passage of the apportionment act. Having provided that the next session should be held at Madison, the

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first Legislative Assembly of Wisconsin Territory adjourned *sine die* on the 25th of June, 1838.

By the act of Congress to divide the Territory, it was provided that the terms of the members of the Council and House of Representatives be deemed to have expired, and that a new election of members should be had upon an apportionment to be made by the Governor, and that they should meet at Madison at such time as the Governor should appoint.

The population of the Territory in May, 1838, as shown by the censns, was as follows:

Brown	County	3,048
Crawford	"	1,220
Dane	"	172
Dodge	"	18
Green	"	494
Grant	"	2,763
Iowa	"	3,218
Jefferson	"	468
Milwaukee	"	3,131
Racine	"	2,054
Rock	"	480
Walworth	"	1,019
Washington	"	64
Total		18,149

The time fixed by the Governor for the meeting of the Legislative Assembly, under the re-organized Territorial Government, was the 26th day of November.

Party lines had not yet been drawn in the Territory, and the members were elected without reference to, and perhaps without a knowledge of, their views upon national politics. Among the members elect, were some who have since held distinguished public positions, of whom may be mentioned EDWARD V. WHITON, NELSON DEWEY, DANIEL WELLS, JR., MORGAN L. MARTIN, and MARSHALL M. STRONG.

Upon the convening of the Legislative Assembly, it was found that the capital was in an unfinished state, and so much dissatisfaction existed with the accommodations at Madison, that it was a matter of doubt for two weeks, whether a temporary adjournment to Milwaukee would not be had. A committee appointed for the purpose of investigating the extent of

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the accommodations, reported "that at the Madison House there was one room that would accommodate six persons, at the Madison Hotel two rooms that would accommodate four persons, and at the American Hotel eight rooms, sufficient to accommodate twenty-six persons. But they could not ascertain that more than fifty persons could be accommodated with sufficient rooms for the transaction of business."

A resolution to remove the session to some other place passed one House, and would probably have passed the other, if there had been any satisfactory evidence that the accommodations at any other place in the Territory were any better. Under the circumstances, the Legislative Assembly remained at Madison about four weeks, when they adjourned from the 22d of December to the 21st of January.

During this short session a committee of three members from each of the two branches was appointed to make a revision of the laws; and two other committees, of three members each, to investigate the banks in the Territory, which they were required to visit in person. The duty of serving upon these committees, was practically a removal of twelve of the thirty-nine members from the scene of their labors on the floor of their respective houses, and was the ostensible reason for the recess.

The attention of the Legislative Assembly had, however during this short session, been directed to several matters then considered of great importance. Among these were:

An investigation of the mode in which the Commissioners of Public Buildings had discharged their duties.

An investigation of the affairs of the three banks then in operation at Green Bay, Mineral Point and Milwaukee.

A plan for constructing the Milwaukee and Rock River canal, in aid of which a grant of land had been made by Congress; and, what was of greater importance than all else,

A revision of the general laws of the Territory.

The investigations furnished no valuable practical results They showed that the Building Commissioners had misapplied the money appropriated by Congress for the construction of

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the capitol, and as a consequence, the old Commissioners were removed, after they had used up the funds, and new ones appointed, who had none to use.

The investigations of the banks resulted in an official promulgation of the previously well-known insolvency of the Bank of Wisconsin, at Green Bay, and a white-washing of the Bank of Mineral Point, declaring it to be "in a solvent and safe condition," when the experience of a short time demonstrated its utter insolvency.

The opportunity which the recess furnished enabled those who took an immediate interest in the matter to devise a plan for aiding in the construction of the Milwaukee and Rock River Canal, by disposing of the land grant, which, upon the re-assembling of the Legislative Assembly, assumed the form of a law, that would probably have resulted in completing that important work, but for the unfortunate difficulties already referred to.

The most important work, however, of that session—or of the two sessions (for there was a complete re-organization of beth Houses upon their re-assembling)—was the revision of the laws, which was perfected during the recess, and submitted to the two Houses at their second meeting.

The committee for this purpose consisted of Messrs. MARTIN, MARSHALL M. STRONG, and COLLINS, of the Council, and Messrs. WHITON, STORY and SHACKELFORD, of the House of Representatives. They were required by the resolution to make a division of the labor of revision, and the portion allotted to each branch of the committee was to be reported to the House of which they were members. The committee, during the recess of the Legislative Assembly, prepared, and at the succeeding session reported, numerous bills, which were passed by that body, and compose the principal part of the laws contained in the volume of the Revised Statutes published in 1839, and which took effect on the 4th of July of that year.

Hon. EDWARD V. WHITON, the late able and upright Chief Justice of the State, was entrusted by the Legislative Assembly with the care of the printing and publication of this vol-

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ume, and the preparation of marginal notes and index. The manner in which he discharged these duties was such as might have been expected, and did great credit to his comprehension of the subject, and to his carefulness and industry. The volume itself was a most valuable one to all classes, but especially to the courts and lawyers, during the ten years of Territorial life in which it was the *vade mecum* of statutory law.

It was at this session the act was passed to incorporate the Wisconsin Marine and Fire Insurance Company, which, under the power to "receive money on deposit, and loan the same," filled all the channels for money circulation in the Valley of the Mississippi, for years, with its certificates of deposit, in the similitude of, and which supplied the place of, bank notes; although the charter expressly provided that nothing therein contained should give the company banking privileges. This is a striking illustration of the futility of legislative restrictions upon the exercise of corporate powers, especially when sustained, as that company undoubtedly was, by popular sentiment.

Other questions, of more or less temporary interest, occupied the attention of the Legislative Assembly during its long and laborious session, which the occasion will not admit of referring to in detail; and it may with truth be said, that as a whole, no session during the existence of the Territorial government ever performed more labor, or in a more satisfactory manner, than the one of which we now take our leave.

The next session commenced on the 2d day of December, 1839. The term for which the members of the House of Representatives were elected was about to expire, and a new apportionment was desirable. The census to be taken the ensuing June by the United States Marshal, presented a favorable opportunity of basing the new apportionment upon a fresh enumeration of the inhabitants. For this purpose a short session was resolved on, and an adjournment to August, when it was expected the census would be completed; and the two Houses consequently adjourned on the 13th of January to the 3d of August, 1840, having been in session forty-three days.

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But little of public interest transpired at this session. Two subjects occupied most of the attention of the members. One was the condition of the capitol, and the conduct of the Commissioners entrusted with the money appropriated by Congress to defray the cost of its construction. The other, the Milwaukee and Rock river canal, and the claims of settlers upon the lands granted to aid in its construction.

The history of the early measures taken to secure the erection of a building in which to hold the sessions of the Territorial Legislature, is a history of peculation with the appropriations made for that purpose, as disgraceful to those concerned in it, as it was destructive of the manifest intentions of Congress. These appropriations amounted to $40,000. The Commissioners elected in 1836, Messrs. DOTY, O'NEILL and BIRD, received this large sum of money, and according to the report of the joint committee, made to the Legislative Assembly on the 3d of January, 1840, they had expended less than half that sum upon the public buildings. They entered into a secret partnership with the contractor in merchandize and other outside speculations, and in the language of the report, "had done little more than erect a shell of a Capitol, which is scarcely capable of sustaining its own weight, and which, unless it is speedily secured by extensive repairs, must become a heap of ruins." All steps were taken which could be to recover by law from the first board of Commissioners and from the contractor, the funds which they had misapplied, and, after several years of litigation, the suits were settled by authority of a subsequent Legislature.

The grant of land by Congress to aid in the construction of the Milwaukee and Rock River Canal, was of the odd-numbered sections on a belt of ten miles in width, from Lake Michigan to Rock River, which amounted to 139,190 acres. The Commissioners reported to the Legislative Assembly at this session, that they had sold 43,447 acres at $2.50 per acre, amounting to $108,616, for which they had received in cash $12,277, and the remainder was payable in five six, seven and eight years, with seven per cent interest. There was also re-

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maining unsold 95,743 acres, the proceeds of which it was estimated might amount to four or five hundred thousand dollars.

The policy which was attempted, but which failed, was to borrow money on the credit of the lands, and to hold the lands as a means of paying the loan after the canal should be constructed.

The act making the grant provided that the alternate sections should not be sold for less than $2.50 per acre, nor be subject to pre-emption. This was regarded by the settlers upon them as a great hardship, and they presented their complaints to the Legislative Assembly, who memorialized Congress to grant a pre-emption right at $1.25 per acre to all who had settled on these alternate sections previous to the grant.

The question of the Southern boundary of the future State of Wisconsin, was one which had occupied the thoughts of many, who felt an interest in its prosperity, at a period as early as the "Toledo war," which originated in the same question and grew out of the rights of boundary secured to the States of Michigan and Wisconsin, by the ordinance of 1787, which was older than, and was claimed to be paramount to, the constitution of the United States. The right of the State of Wisconsin, when it should be admitted into the Union, to embrace all of the territory north of a line, running west from the southern bend of Lake Michigan, was believed to be inviolable, and that the act of Congress admitting Illinois into the Union, so far as it violated that right, was a usurpation of power and a nullity. This belt of territory embraced the entire valley of Rock River and the cities of Chicago and Galena. A joint resolution was passed, taking preliminary measures for ascertaining, by vote, the sentiments of the people upon the disputed territory in relation to which State they preferred to give their allegiance. But the question did not elicit such interest as to call out a general expression of opinion, and no practical results were effected.

At the adjourned session in August, 1840, but little business was transacted, except to make a new apportionment of members of the House of Representatives. The session lasted but

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twelve days, and only thirteen acts were passed, generally in relation to the organization or boundaries of towns or counties, or the holding of courts, and a few of a private nature.

The census showed a population of 30,744 against 18,149 two years previously. Some changes were made in the apportionment of members of the House of Representatives. Brown, Iowa and Grant, each lost one member, which the Rock and Walworth, and the Dane districts gained.

The first session of the third Legislative Assembly commenced December 7, 1840, and was adjourned on the 19th February, 1841, having continued seventy-five days, the maximum time limited by the organic act. The members of the House of Representatives had been recently elected under a new apportionment, and were all new members with three exceptions. The extreme length of this session was owing, in a great degree, to a very interesting contested election case between Messrs. BRUCE and ELLIS, from Brown county, which elicited very considerable feeling. Each of the contestants had employed counsel, and by resolutions of the Assembly, the attorney for each contestant constituted a joint traveling commission, to take the testimony of all the witnesses which either party might desire. The commission traveled over the district embracing Sheboygan, Manitowoc, Oconto, Portage and the Wisconsin Pinery, and necessarily consumed much time, so that a final result was not reached until the last of January, and only nineteen days before the adjournment. The most important question involved in the contest, was the right of the Brothertown Indians to vote. The decision was in favor of the right. which has never since been questioned.

Most of the session was devoted to the ordinary routine of legislation. There was, however, a departure, in the passage of two acts granting divorces—a species of legislation which had been tabooed ever since the Burlington session, and which was indulged in now, expressly as exceptional.

The Bank of Mineral Point having gone into operation, with no capital except its charter, and the financial ability of its cashier, had managed to throw upon the community a cir-

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culation of about $200,000, and was regarded by many with great distrust. The Governor, in his annual message, directed the attention of the Legislature to it, and recommended measures to avert the threatened danger. It was of no avail. A bill was introduced by Mr. WHITON, designed to protect the people; but the money power of the bank was omnipotent, the bill was defeated, and within six months the bank failed with liabilities to the amount of a quarter of a million of dollars, none of which have ever been or ever will be redeemed.

The interests of the Milwaukee and Rock River canal of course demanded attention. The former legislation had authorized the issue of Territorial bonds for $50,000, at six per cent. interest, and had required them to be sold at par, and the proceeds deposited in the city of New York. It was found impossible to negotiate them, and the rate of interest was increased to seven per cent., and the deposit of the proceeds authorized in any sound specie-paying bank which should be selected by the Commissioners and the Governor. The amount, also, was increased to $100,000.

No material improvement had been made up to the commencement of this session in the conveniences or comforts which the capitol building presented to the members, and a large majority were ready to remove the seat of government to some other place; and nothing but the inability of the majority to agree upon that other place, prevented its removal. The prospect of obtaining from the old Commissioners any part of the funds they had received and retained appearing hopeless, the Legislative Assembly authorized the issue of $7,000 Territorial bonds, for the purpose of completing the capitol. With this fund as a basis, DANIEL BAXTER undertook the work, and was in a great measure successful; not, however, without a contingent claim, which at every subsequent session has served to impress upon the members investigating the "Baxter claim," some of the events of Territorial legislation.

In the interim between this session and the next, Gen. HAR-

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RISON, the President of the United States, had died, and JOHN TYLER had been inaugurated as his successor. One of the early acts of Mr. TYLER was the removal of Gov. DODGE, and the appointment of Judge DOTY. Most unfortunately for the Territory, Gov. DOTY entertained ideas in relation to the relative rights and powers of Congress and the Territorial Legislature which tended, for all useful purposes, to destroy the powers of the Legislative Assembly. He boldly avowed in his messages and elsewhere, that no law of the Territory was effective, until expressly *approved* by Congress; thus giving to Congress directly the power of legislating for the Territory, while the organic act provided that "the Legislative power should be vested in the Governor and Legislative Assembly, but that the laws should be submitted to, and if *disapproved* by, Congress, should be null and of no effect." Acting upon this theory of the invalidity of Territorial laws, Gov. DOTY disregarded such as conflicted with his supposed interests, or his wishes, the result of which was a continued warfare between the Governor and the Legislative Assembly.

During this interim there also arose a serious feud between the loan-agent appointed by the Governor to negotiate the loan of $100.000 for the benefit of the Milwaukee and Rock River canal, and the canal commissioners. The agent reported that he had negotiated $56.000 of the bonds, but he did not report that the money to be received for them, was the notes of "sound specie paying banks." The Commissioners claimed that it was their right and duty not to recognize any loan made for currency of which they disapproved. The loan-agent denied that the Commissioners had any such rights or duties, and claimed that he was the sole judge of the kind of money which should be received in exchange for the bonds. Whatever were the merits of the dispute, the effect was to defeat the loan, and as a further consequence, to stop all further work on the canal.

At the next session, commenced on the 6th of December, 1841, about the only matter of public interest, except the quarrel between the Legislative Assembly and the Governor,

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was the disposition of the various questions growing out of the connection between the Territory and the canal and Canal Company. Congress had made a valuable grant of lands to the Territory in trust. The Territory was the trustee; the Canal Company the *cestuy que trust.* The trust had been accepted, and a large portion of the lands had been sold; one-tenth of the purchase price received, and ample securities held for the balance. The Territory was in a dilemma. It could not go forward, and had no right to go backward, without the consent of Congress and the Canal Company. The result was that it repealed all laws authorizing a loan, and all which contemplated the expenditure of any money by the Territory in constructing the canal. It remitted and discharged to the purchasers of the canal lands, all interest on their purchases which had or might become due, except the small sum which might be necessary to pay interest on loans and expenses, not exceeding $300; but took care that the principal of the securities received for the sale of the lands, should remain *intact,* to await the result of future events. The Legislative Assembly also declared, by joint resolution, that all connection with the Canal Company ought to be dissolved, and the work of the canal by the Territory be abandoned, and that the Territory ought not further to execute the trust. That Congress be requested to divert the grant to such other internal improvements as should be designated by the Territory, subject to the approval of Congress, and that if Congress should decline to make this diversion, it was requested to take back the grant, and dispose of the unsold lands as other public lands were sold.

I would that fidelity to the task I have undertaken would suffer me to omit any reference to the horrible tragedy which the members of the Council were compelled to witness on the 11th February, 1842, by which CHARLES C. P. ARNDT, a member from Brown county, was instantly shot dead by JAMES R. VINEYARD, a member from Grant county. Unwilling to trust my own recollection, I give the circumstances as detailed in the testimony of JOHN H. TWEEDY before the coroner's inquest:

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"J. H. TWEEDY sworn: The difficulty grew out of a debate on motion to lay on the table the nomination of E. S. BAKER. Mr. ARNDT opposed it, because the gentleman from Grant (alluding to Mr. VINEYARD, I suppose,) 'had given the highest testimonials as to the character of the nominee.' I think, upon his making that remark, Mr. VINEYARD turned partly round in his seat, and said it was a falsehood. Some words passed, and order was restored. Soon after a motion to adjourn was made, and a division had thereon; and immediately after the members had arisen in the negative, before announcement by the chair, most of the members and by-standers rose, and I saw deceased and Mr. VINEYARD, and I believe one or two others, close together at the corner of Mr. VINEYARD'S desk. Many words in a high key passed; heard deceased demand of Mr. VINEYARD an explanation. Then Mr. STRONG called aloud 'order,' twice; and the President arose and called the House to order. VINEYARD and deceased were parted by one or two by-standers. Saw deceased then move about eight feet towards the fire-place. He stood there, and Mr. VINEYARD at his desk, until the chair announced an adjournment. Mr. ARNDT then came up to Mr. VINEYARD'S desk. Mr. V. was standing at the corner of it. Deceased asked Mr. VINEYARD if he imputed to him falsehood in his remarks. Mr. VINEYARD answered "yes," or that "they were false," do not remember which. Think I then saw deceased strike at Mr. V.'s face, or forehead—they were about three feet apart. Rose to go to them. Did not see distinctly, but thought one or two blows had passed; then heard an explosion. Deceased partly reeled around and moved several steps toward the fire-place, with his hands on his breast. I believe next moment saw him in the arms of Mr. DERRING. I believe in about five minutes saw him die. He said nothing, and did not appear to be conscious of anything."

The testimony of the other witnesses was substantially the same, all agreeing that the deceased was the assaulting party, and that VINEYARD was defending himself against the assault, although by means of weapons of death, which the occasion

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by no means demanded. He immediately surrendered himself to the Sheriff, waived an examination, and was committed to jail. After a short confinement he was brought before the Chief Justice of the Territory on *habeas corpus*, and admitted to bail. He was afterwards indicted for manslaughter, and was tried and acquitted. Immediately after the homicide VINEYARD sent his resignation to the Council. The Council refused to receive it or have it read, and immediately expelled him.

After a few days spent with heavy hearts in the mournful task of finishing up the work, in much of which the two members, whose seats were now vacant, had taken a part, the second and last session of the third Legislative Assembly adjourned, on the 18th of February, to give place to new members in both houses, to be elected under a new apportionment to be made by the Governor, based upon a census to be taken the next June by the Sheriffs of the several counties.

The census showed a population of 46,678.

Milwaukee county	9,565
Washington..do	965
Racine..... do	6,318
Brown..... do	2,146
Winnebago.. do	143
Marquette....do	59
Sheboygan...do	221
Manitowoc...do	263
Calumet..... do	407
Fond du Lac. do	295
Portage..... do	646
Walworth.... do	4,618
Rock.....ko	2,867
Dane..... do	776
Green.....do	1,594
Jefferson.....do	1,638
Dodge..... do	149
Sauk..... do	303
Iowa..... do	5,029
Grant ..... do	5,937
Crawford....,do	1,449
St. Croix.....do (estimated)	1,200
Total	46,678

The representation in both houses was increased in Milwaukee and the central counties, while it was correspondingly

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reduced in Brown and Iowa counties. In most of the districts the elections were conducted upon political issues, and the result showed a very decided Democratic majority in each House. The Governor professed to belong to the Whig party.

The convening of the fourth Legislative Assembly exhibited a contest between the Governor, on the one hand, and the two Houses on the other, which threatened to result in anarchy and the disruption (temporarly at least) of the Territorial Government. The law of the Territory required that the annual session of the Legislative Assembly should commence on the 1st Monday of December. On that day, in 1842, the members elect convened at the Capitol, and having been duly organized, waited upon the Governor by a joint committee in the customary manner. The committee informed him that the two Houses were organized, and ready to receive any communication he had to make. The Governor replied, that "not conceiving that the Legislative Assembly had authority by law to meet at the present time, he had no communication to make to them." The subject was referred to a joint select committee of three members of each House, of which HANS CROCKER was chairman, and of which MORGAN L. MARTIN, M. C. DARLING and others were members, who made an elaborate report, showing that the pretense of the Governor for refusing to co-operate with the Legislative Assembly, was that no appropriation had been made by Congress to defray the expenses of the session, and consequently no session could be held. An appropriation had been made May 18, 1842, which the Governor claimed was only applicable to the expenses of the past session, but which the committee demonstrated was applicable to the expenses of this session, and that there was no valid reason why a session could not lawfully be held at this time. Many members, among them the late Chief Justice WHITON, were in favor of proceeding with the work of legislation, and throwing upon the Governor the responsibility of defeating it; but it was finally decided to make a representation to Congress, then in session, of the

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objections of the Governor, and to adjourn for a few weeks, thinking that, perhaps, another appropriation would be made, and thus, all objections to the session be removed.

A memorial to the President of the United States, praying for the removal of the Governor, was adopted by the unanimous vote of the Council, and with only two dissenting votes in the House. Whigs joined with Democrats in this emphatic condemnation of the factious course which he had adopted. The two Houses then adjourned on the 10th of December to the 30th day of January, 1843.

On the 24th of December, 1842, Congress made another appropriation for the expenses of the Legislative Assembly, which it was supposed would remove all conflict about the legality of the session. Both Houses met on the 30th of January, but there was no quorum in the Council until the 4th of February.

On the 30th of January the Governor issued a proclamation, convening a *special session* on the 6th day of March.

On the 4th of February the two Houses again waited on the Governor, through a joint committee, and he again informed the committee, that he had no communication to make, except a copy of his proclamation.

Mr. WHITON, the late Chief Justice, offered a resolution, "That the Legislative Assembly will now proceed to discharge its duties, without regard to any course that has been, or may be, pursued by the Governor." This was lost by a tie vote. Resolutions were then adopted, by the unanimous vote of the Council, and a large majority of the House, declaring, among other things, that the only excuse for the conduct of the Governor could be found, "in his determination to prevent all legislation, and sacrifice for his own private purposes the welfare of the Territory," and that his conduct was "another evidence of his violation of law, and utter disregard of the duties of his station, and of the wishes and interests of the people. And then, by a divided vote in each House, the Legislative Assembly adjourned until the 6th of March.

On the 6th of March both Houses met, and sent the usual

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committee to wait on the Governor, and on the same day he delivered his message, which was referred to the appropriate committees, and harmony was apparently restored between the Governor and the two Houses. But the harmony was only in appearance, and the conflict was again renewed. After the session had continued several days, and a printed copy of the journal of each House had been daily furnished the Governor, he took exceptions to the journal of the first day, which did not state that the two Houses had met in pursuance of his proclamation, while the journal of the Council stated that the meeting was in pursuance of adjournment. Finally on the 18th of March, both Houses passed a joint resolution, declaring that they were holding "the special session appointed by the proclamation of the Governor." Thus ended this conflict, which was only renewed, in the legitimate form of veto messages, which were sent to each House in the utmost profusion, Congress having amended the organic act changing the Executive veto from an absolute to a qualified one. Only fifty-four acts were passed, and of these six were passed by a vote of two-thirds, notwithstanding the Governor's veto. The session was a long and acrimonious one; and wherever impartial history shall affix the blame, it cannot record a large amount of good accomplished.

The second session of the Fourth Legislative Assembly, commenced on the 4th of December, 1843, and terminated on the 31st of January, 1844, having occupied a period of fifty-nine days. The most important act of this session was the one which extended to persons of foreign birth, a right in common with all others, after a residence of three months, to vote upon the question of forming a State Government, and for the election of delegates to a convention to form a State Constitution. This question had excited much interest among the people, and produced an animated conflict of opinion among their representatives, which resulted in the adoption of the measure by a decided majority, composed chiefly of the democratic members. It was the germ of that provision of

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our Constitution which has given a similar extension to the right of suffrage in this State.

At this session was also submitted the question of the formation of a State Government, by authorizing a vote to be taken at the general election in September, and the returns to be made through the Secretary, at the next session of the Legislative Assembly.

Questions connected with the Milwaukee and Rock River Canal of course occupied much attention, and the members spent much time upon matters pertaining to the general public laws of the Territory.

It must not be supposed that the dignified attention of the members to their ordinary duties, was not occasionally relieved by some displays of wit and exhibitions of mirth. As an illustration, the following incident is mentioned. A self-important, bombastic member* from one of the western counties, had introduced into the House of Representatives, a memorial to the Secretary of the Treasury, for the purpose of correcting some abuses which were complained of, in the manner in which the United States Marshal disbursed—or failed to disburse—the public monies provided for paying expenses of the courts. The language of the memorial was mere fustian and rodomontade; and contained, among other things, the expression, that during a certain period of time the Marshal had not paid out "one solitary cent." It was allowed to pass the House as an act of courtesy to the member who introduced it. When it came before the Council, Col. CROCKER moved to amend by inserting between the words "solitary" and "cent," the word "red," so as to read "one solitary red cent." The amendment was adopted, and the memorial returned to the House with the amendment. The House refused to concur, and the Council refused to recede, and the bombastic memorial was lost.

The time for the annual meeting of the Legislative Assembly having been changed from December to the first Monday in January, the next session commenced on the 6th day of

* It is understood that reference is had to Hon. ALONZO PLATT, of Grant County. L. C. D.

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January, 1845, and adjourned on the 24th of February—a session of 50 days. A new election for members of the House of Representatives had been held, which resulted in a very general change, only three of the former members having been re-elected. In some districts, especially in Grant county, the repeal of the law of last session in relation to the qualifications of voters on the question of State Government had made an issue in the election. A bill was introduced to repeal the law without qualification. But on a test vote, the friends of the law were found to be in a majority, and amended the repealing bill by extending the period of residence from three to six months, and requiring a declaration of intention. The bill in this form passed both Houses, and under its provisions the vote was ultimately taken.

A bill passed the Council to again submit to the people the question of forming a State Government, but it was defeated in the House of Representatives; and the only measure adopted at this session upon that subject was a joint resolution requesting our Delegate in Congress to ask for an appropriation to defray the expenses of taking a census, and of holding a convention to form a State Government.

Governor DOTY had persisted in spelling Wisconsin with a "k" and an "a" Wis-*k*on-*sa*n, and some of the newspapers and his admirers imitated his example, so that the Legislative Assembly thought it a matter of sufficient importance to pass a joint resolution, declaring that the orthography should be that adopted in the organic act, which has ever since universally prevailed.

A Territorial indebtedness, from various causes, had grown up during the eight years of the Territorial Government, which was estimated to amount to about $50,000. No means had been provided for its payment, and at this session a Territorial tax was for the first time levied. The tax was only one and a half mills on the dollar. The assessment was very low, lands being assessed at about two dollars per acre, excluding all improvements, the object of which exclusion was to assess the unimproved lands of speculators as high as the improved lands of the inhabitants.

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At this session the unsold lands granted to aid in the construction of the Milwaukee and Rock River Canal were authorized to be sold; a measure adopted chiefly to enable those who had settled upon them, and who desired to do so, to secure titles. The effect of this was, as was anticipated, that those portions of Milwaukee, Waukesha and Jefferson counties, covered by the canal grant, were rapidly occupied by an industrious and wealth-producing population.

Before the meeting of this session, Governor DOTY had been succeeded by Governor TALLMADGE, between whom and the Legislative Assembly the utmost harmony prevailed, and the session was short, pleasant, and not without some beneficial results.

JAMES K. POLK was inuaugurated President March 4th, 1845. He removed Gov. TALLMADGE, and re-appointed Gov. DODGE, under whose administration the fourth and last session of the Fourth Legislative Assembly convened on the 5th of January, 1846. This session lasted but thirty days, having adjourned on the 3d of February; but by taking the preliminary steps for the formation of a State Government, it was the most important session ever held. An act was passed, not without some opposition, provi ling "that on the first Tuesday of April next, every white male inhabitant above the age of twenty-one years, who shall have resided in the Territory for six months previous thereto, and who shall either be a citizen of the United States, or who shall have filed his declaration, etc., * * * shall be authorized to vote for or against the formation of a State Government." The act provided for taking a census, and in the event of a vote in favor of a State Government, for an apportionment of delegates by the Governor, on the basis of one delegate for every 1.300 inhabitants, and for every fraction exceeding a moiety of that number, and one to every organized county. The Governor was to issue his proclamation announcing the apportionment, and calling an election at the time fixed for the next annual election, which by the act was changed from the fourth to the first Monday of September. The delegates were to assemble in Convention on

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the first Monday in October, and to have full power and authority to form a republican Constitution for the State of Wisconsin, to be submitted to a vote of the people before it should become effective.

Numerous interesting questions arose during the progress of the bill, among which was a proposition by Mr. WHITON, in the Council, to give *colored* persons the same right to vote as white persons, which was laid on the table by a vote of 7 to 6. In the House, a motion was made to strike out the word "white," but it was defeated, ayes 10, noes 16. This was twenty-four years ago; before the negro question had been much agitated.

With the close of this political year, the terms of the members of both Houses closed also—the members of the Council who had been elected for four years, and of the House for two. The Legislative Assembly therefore re-organized the election districts, and conferred upon the Governor the power and duty of making an apportionment, based upon the census which it had authorized to be taken.

An act was passed repealing unconditionally the charter of the Wisconsin Marine and Fire Insurance company, granted February 28, 1839.

Several memorials to Congress were adopted, among which was one asking an appropriation for a penitentiary.

A gloom was thrown over the closing days of this session, by the awful news that the dwelling house of one of the members—MARSHALL M. STRONG, of Racine—had been consumed by fire, and that his wife and his only two children had perished in the flames.

The census taken in June, 1846, showed a population of 155,277—excluding Chippewa, La Point and Richland counties, from which there were no returns:

Brown.....county	2,662
Calumet.....do	836
Columbia.....do	1,969
Crawford.....do	1,444
Dane.....do	8,289
Dodge.....do	7,787
Fond du Lac....do	3,544
Grant.....do	12,034
Green.....do	4,758
Iowa.....do	14,916
Jefferson.....do	8,680

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OBJECTS OF COLLECTION.—The Society earnestly solicits of every editor and publisher of a newspaper or periodical in the State the regular transmission of such publication; Books and pamphlets on all subjects of interest or reference; Magazines; Newspaper Files; Maps; Engravings; Portraits of Wisconsin pioneers and other prominent personages; War and Indian relics, and other curiosities; Narratives of Early Settlement, Hardships, Border Wars, and of the part borne by Wisconsin men in the late war of the rebellion.

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